

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of North Carolina

In the Matter of the Search of)
 (Briefly describe the property to be searched or identify the person by name and address))
 Priority Mail parcel bearing mailing label with tracking number 9505 5105 9477 9169 1743 58, located at 3701 W. Wendover Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27495)
)
 Case No. 1:19MJ_208 -1

APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):

Priority Mail parcel bearing mailing label with tracking number 9505 5105 9477 9169 1743 58, located at 3701 W. Wendover Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27495

located in the Middle District of North Carolina, there is now concealed (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):

United States Currency

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- evidence of a crime;
- contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
- property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
- a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

<i>Code Section</i>	<i>Offense Description</i>
21 USC 846	Conspiracy to violate Title 21 of the United States Code
21 USC 841, 843(b)	Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance; Use of a Communication Facility to Facilitate Distribution of a Controlled Substance

The application is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit

- Continued on the attached sheet.
- Delayed notice of _____ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: _____) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.


Applicant's signature

Angela D. Pollard, US Postal Inspector

Printed name and title


Judge's signature

L. Patrick Auld, U. S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: June 10, 2019

City and state: Greensboro, North Carolina

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector and have been so employed since 1999. I completed a fourteen week basic training course at the United States Postal Inspection Service Training Academy in Potomac, Maryland. I have received specialized training in Interview and Interrogations, Mail Theft Investigations, Prohibited Mailings Narcotics, Property and Evidence Handling Procedures, Workplace Violence Prevention, Field Legal Training and Confidential Informant Training. Prior to starting the Postal Inspection Service Training Academy, I was a Law Enforcement Officer in the City of Fayetteville, North Carolina from 1989-1999. While employed for the City of Fayetteville, I received specialized training in Homicide Investigations, Narcotics Investigations, Sexual Assault Investigations, Field Training Officer Training, in addition to numerous other trainings. I am currently assigned to the Mail Fraud Team in Greensboro, North Carolina, Charlotte Division, which is responsible for investigations of violations involving the United States Mail, including use of the U. S. Mails to transmit controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a), 843(b) and 846.

2. On June 18, 2019, a Priority Mail parcel bearing tracking number 9505 5105 9477 9169 1743 58 (hereafter, "the Suspect Parcel") entered into the mail stream in Advance, North Carolina 27006. The Suspect Parcel was

addressed to "Bo Triplett, 1200 S. Grande Ave, Apt. 266, Los Angeles, CA 90015."

3. On June 18, 2019, Postal Inspectors conducting parcel interdiction deemed the Suspect Parcel as suspicious in nature. The Suspect Parcel was going to a source state commonly known for receiving the proceeds of narcotics transactions and had a handwritten label in black ink.

4. The Suspect Parcel is described as follows:

- a) Addressed to: "Bo Triplett, 1200 S. Grande Ave, Apt. 266, Los Angeles, CA 90015"
- b) From: "Triplett, 278 Orrell Trail, Advance, NC 27006"
- c) Size: approximately 14.125" X 12" X 3.5"
- d) Weight: approximately 2 pounds 3 ounces
- e) Postage affixed: \$14.35
- f) Physical description: a White "Priority Mail" box, bearing tracking number 9505 5105 9477 9169 1743 58.

5. On June 18, 2019, investigators attempted to verify the information provided on the Priority Mail label for the Suspect Parcel by using law enforcement databases. The Inspections Service was able to determine that the name for the sender (Triplett) of the Suspect Parcel is not associated with the address on the label for 278 Orrell Trail, Advance, North Carolina 27006. The recipient's address (1200 South Grande Avenue Apartment 266,

Los Angeles, California 90015) for the Suspect Parcel is a valid address; and the name (Bo Triplett) is associated with the recipient's address for the Suspect Parcel.

6. I am aware, through my training and experience, that people who utilize the U.S. Mail to distribute controlled substances and/or monetary payments related thereto commonly use fictitious names and addresses in an attempt to avoid detection by law enforcement agencies. I am also aware, through training and experience that California is a source state for the distribution of narcotics and the receiving of the narcotic proceeds. I am also aware North Carolina is a known destination for controlled substance through the U.S. Mail and known for using the U. S. Mail for returning U. S. Currency to the initial sender to complete sales of narcotics.

7. I am aware, also through training and experience, that people often use the U.S. Mail, specifically Express, Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail, for the delivery of controlled substances for various reasons, some of which are listed below:

- a) Items sent via Express, Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail are considered to be First-Class Mail. Therefore, these items cannot be examined without a federal search warrant.

- b) Express, Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail are generally expected to be delivered in one to three days. This assures the sender of expedited delivery.
- c) Various dispatch times (times which a mailed item is transported to the next destination) are available to customers upon request and provides the sender an opportunity to have some control as to the arrival of the mailed item.
- d) Individuals desiring to either send or receive controlled substances and payments for these substances through the U.S. Mail can do so without having to provide identification. This reduces the possibility of revealing their true identity.
- e) Individuals use the U. S. Mail to send payment, often large sums of currency, for the controlled substances they have purchased. It is common for the currency to come into contact with the narcotics during drug transactions. It is further common for the currency to pick up the odor of narcotics when they come into contact. The narcotic odor in currency typically dissipates after approximately one week.

8. On June 18, 2019, Drug K-9 Detective Adam J. Smith of the Greensboro Police Department, assigned to the Vice Narcotics Division, was

contacted regarding the Suspect Parcel. Detective Smith and drug detecting K-9 Hacksaw (hereafter, "Hacksaw") responded to the Greensboro Processing and Distribution Center in the Middle District of North Carolina.

9. The Suspect Parcel was placed in a lineup with four other parcels at the Greensboro Processing and Distribution Center, none of which contained a controlled substance. Hacksaw walked among the parcels. Hacksaw alerted only to the Suspect Parcel by sitting and staring at the Suspect Parcel, which was Hacksaw's signal to indicate the scent of a controlled substance. The examination took place at 7:59 p.m. on June 18, 2019.

10. Detective Adam Smith has been a sworn law enforcement officer for the past ten years with the Greensboro Police Department, having completed Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) in February 2009. Detective Smith is currently assigned as an Investigative Interdiction Detective on the Vice Squad in the Vice & Narcotics Division of the Greensboro Police Department and has worked narcotics investigations, specifically, since April 2011. In October 2018, Detective Smith was selected to be a Narcotics Detection Dog Handler and was assigned K-9 Hacksaw, a seven-year-old Black Labrador Retriever.

11. In addition to BLET, Detective Smith has attended Basic Narcotics Investigators course, Airport Narcotics Investigations, Introduction to Conspiracy Investigations, Highway and Rural Drug Investigations, Advanced

Criminal Interdiction, Advanced Roadside Interdiction, Basic K-9/Detector Dog Training, High Risk Apprehensions, Bus Interdiction, Parcel Interdiction, Train Interdiction, and has attended numerous other seminars. Detective Smith has been certified through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Operation JETWAY Training program to conduct all manner of Interdiction Investigations and has completed well over 300 hours of training with the majority of the training focusing on illegal narcotics throughout his career.

12. In addition to his current assignment, Detective Smith has served the department as a Patrol Officer, Police Training Officer, and as a street-level drug officer. Detective Smith is a member of the International Narcotics Interdiction Association (INIA), and the International Police Working Dog Association.

13. Detective Smith has conducted and assisted in numerous narcotics investigations leading to the arrest and conviction of narcotics traffickers in the State of North Carolina, 18th Prosecutorial District and the United States Federal Court of the Middle District of North Carolina.

14. In 2012, Hacksaw was purchased from Green Collar Kennels, in Greensboro, N.C., by the Greensboro Police Department. After undergoing several tests as to his suitability as a police work dog, Hacksaw was accepted by the Canine Division and began training in 2012. Hacksaw worked with Officer Steven B. Wood of the Greensboro Police Department Highway

Interdiction Team from 2012-2014. Officer Wood has since retired and the K-9 records cannot be located. Hacksaw remained out of service until November of 2018, when Detective Smith began training with Hacksaw.

15. Hacksaw and Detective Smith have together completed 200 hours of basic canine detection training with Corporal Dwayne Diaz, a canine handler and trainer who has multiple years of experience in the Canine Division of the Greensboro Police Department.

16. Hacksaw has demonstrated that he can reliably use his olfactory senses to locate the odor of controlled substances, which include heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, hashish, methamphetamine, and ecstasy. After successful completion of this training, Hacksaw entered into service with the Greensboro Police Department, Vice & Narcotics Division as a narcotics detection K-9 in December 2018.

17. In training with the Greensboro Police Department, Hacksaw was “imprinted” to detect the odor of cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, hash, methamphetamine, heroin, and ecstasy. At the beginning of training, the officers placed all seven substances in a hidden box, and Hacksaw was rewarded with a toy when he correctly alerted. Then, the officers removed one substance at a time, and repeated the testing, until Hacksaw could detect the presence of any of the substances individually.

18. On December 7, 2018, Detective Smith took Hacksaw to Fayetteville, North Carolina, to undergo testing by the International Police Working Dog Association. Joseph Salisbury, of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, administered the tests. Hacksaw underwent three tests. The first was an open air field test where narcotic substances were hidden in four locations in a field or a parking lot. Hacksaw successfully found the four hidden locations of controlled substances. The second test was of an interior room. Hacksaw had to search several locations of a warehouse, and alert to the presence of controlled substances. Hacksaw successfully alerted to the four areas that had controlled substances. The third test involved vehicles. Hacksaw had to search nine vehicles. One of the vehicles had no drugs and was blank. Hacksaw successfully alerted to the eight vehicles that had controlled substances, and successfully did not alert on the one vehicle that was blank. Based on his one hundred percent successful rate of testing, Hacksaw received certification from the International Police Working Dog Association. This certification is valid for 15 months from the date of issuance.

19. Detective Smith has successfully demonstrated the ability to properly deploy Hacksaw and locate hidden narcotics. Hacksaw has successfully detected narcotics that have been concealed in locations including the following: sealed packages, residential homes and outbuildings,

automobiles, tractor-trailers, luggage, electrical components and appliances, in the ground, and elsewhere.

20. On December 7, 2018, the K-9 detection team of Hacksaw and Detective Smith was certified as a K-9 detection team. On May 14, 2019, the K-9 Detection team of Hacksaw and Detective Smith was re-certified in Fayetteville, North Carolina. From December 7, 2018, until May 15, 2019, Hacksaw and Detective Smith have located and seized no less than 162 pounds of marijuana, 4.4 pounds of cocaine, 6 pounds of heroin, 4.4 pounds of methamphetamine and \$61,344.00 in United States Currency (as of usage report dated May 15, 2019).

21. Based on the above facts, I have probable cause to believe that the Suspect Parcel contains United States Currency used in recent drug transactions, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) and 843 (b), and is also related to the conspiracy to commit a drug trafficking

offense under Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. As such, I respectfully request that a Search Warrant be issued for the Suspect Parcel.


Angela D. Pollard
U.S. Postal Inspector

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 20th day of June, 2019.


The Honorable L. Patrick Auld
United States Magistrate Judge